



Public Meeting Notes

High Point Community Center Addition: Community Meeting on Schematic Design

June 25, 2002, 6:30 to 8 p.m., at High Point Community Center

PRESENTERS: Sam Cameron, Streeter & Associates, Architects; Mark Johnson/Parks Project Manager

The Agenda:

Introductions

Presentation of the Schematic Design

Background:

Parks sent out the usual 2-3,000 mailers advertising the meeting three weeks before it occurred. The mailers included translations of the text in the seven languages most commonly spoken among the community residents. Parks also provided interpreters for these seven languages at the meeting, which was scheduled from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The weather was unusually fine, and at 7:20 p.m. all the interpreters had arrived but no members of the public were there yet. However, at 7:25 p.m. one of the PAT members arrived, and about 10 minutes later five or six members of the Community Center Advisory Council arrived.

All of the meeting attendees have been involved in other presentations of the project, either as members of the PAT, the Advisory Council, or at earlier community meetings. Yet the concerns raised did not reflect this.

Comments:

- Why doesn't the addition shown take advantage of the views to the north of the existing building? These views are what is special about High Point's location.
- There is no need to close the gym during construction, the contractor can work on the building without disrupting programs there except for a brief period when work on the toilet rooms, fire sprinklers, and exits will be occurring.
- We want to add additional space to the addition so that we could have a rental facility that would make money for the Advisory Council. The added space--another multipurpose room with toilets and a second kitchen--should be on a second floor. It wouldn't add to staffing requirements because it would be used only for special events or for special programming that would bring its own staff.
- If we can't build a second floor now, we should plan for adding a second story to this addition and the existing community center. We should design the foundations and walls to carry this second story load so that such an addition wouldn't be precluded in the future.
- One person, not a High Point resident, felt that High Point was being given a "that's good enough for them" design solution because it is a low-income area of the city.

- Another person, a long-time High Point resident, felt that the design did give the community many of the spaces that they have always wanted (a new kitchen, a multi-purpose room, a teen room), but wanted to make certain that we could expand the center in the future.

Sam Cameron and the project manager for Parks listened to comments and suggestions. They explained some of the City's Department of Construction and Land Use (DCLU) regulations regarding parking, the components of our project budget and what we can afford to build, and the analysis that the design team did on the three siting options that led to the current plan. While it may seem obvious to some that a project's budget sets very real limitations on what we can achieve, these citizens see the situation differently: "We haven't received our fair share in the past, and now you're telling us again that there isn't enough money to do what we want to do."

By the end of the meeting, most of the group seemed to feel that their concerns had been heard, and there was a feeling of congeniality among all attendees. However, the concerns expressed are not easy to respond to in terms of design. Community members would like a project without the constraints of site and budget that this one has. All of us must be prepared to explain these constraints again as these issues resurface later in design.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:30 p.m.

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